The Bible Journey

Archaeological, Geographic and Historical Confirmation for the Bible

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." 2 Peter 1:16-18 (KJV)

Compiled by Timothy Hartley

THE BIBLE JOURNEY – NEW TESTAMENT

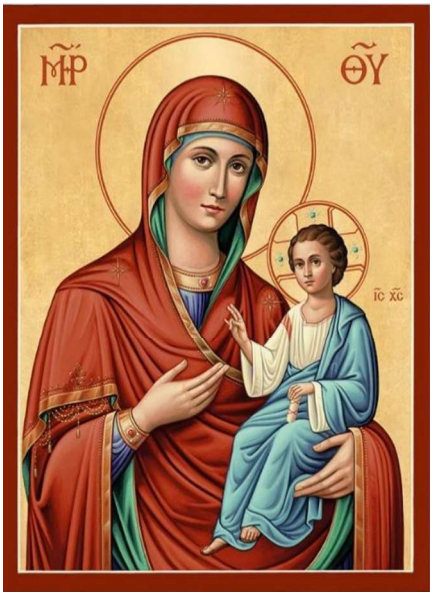
	The Evidence (Locations & Artifacts)	Biblical Passage	Location	Google Earth Coordinates
PART 1: BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST				
1	The Possible home of Mary in Nazareth (Basilica of the Annunciation) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'7.61"N, 35°17'51.63"E
2	The Spring of Mary in Nazareth (Orthodox Church of the Annunciation) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E
3	The Well of Mary in Nazareth (Fountain of the Virgin) [6 BC]	Luke 1:26-38	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°42'23.92"N, 35°18'5.62"E
4	The tombstone of Q. Aemilius Secundus	Luke 2:1-2	Venice, Italy	45°26'0.83"N, 12°20'16.04"E
5	The Star of Bethlehem [5 BC]	Matthew 2:1-10	Google Sky: Constellation Leo: 11h 00m 00s, +15° 00' 00	
6	The Ruins of King Herod's palace in Jerusalem [5 BC]	Matthew 2:1	Jerusalem, Israel, Old Kishle Prison	31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E
7	The Herodium and Tomb of King Herod [4 BC]	Matthew 2:19-20	Za'tara, Palestinian Territories	31°39'57.84"N, 35°14'31.51"E
8	Sarcophagus of King Herod at the Israel Museum	Matthew 2:19-20	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
9	The Church of the Nativity - 4th century church [5 BC]	Luke 2:4-7	Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories	31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E
10	The Graveyard of the Innocents beneath the Church [5 BC / 320 AD]	Matthew 2:16-18	Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories	31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E
11	The Cave of the Shepherds in Bethlehem [5 BC]	Luke 2:8-12	Bayt Sahur, West Bank	31°41'36.46"N, 35°13'53.84"E
12	The Bed where Jesus slept as a toddler in Egypt, now an Altar [4-1 BC]	Matthew 2:20	Al-Muharraq Monastery, Egypt	27° 26' 40" N, 30° 49' 0" E
13	The Possible Family Home of Jesus in Nazareth [1 BC – 28 AD]	Matthew 2:23	Nazareth, Israel	32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E
PART 2: BAPTISM & TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST				
14	The Madaba Map of the Holy Land [560 AD]	John 1:28	Madaba, Jordan	31°43'3.26"N, 35°47'39.25"E
15	The Place of Jesus' Baptism [26 AD]	Matthew 3:13-17	Al-Maghtas, Jordan	31°50'14.33"N, 35°33'0.24"E
16	The Home of John the Baptist and Elijah's Hill [26 AD]	Matthew 3:1-2	Al-Maghtas, Jordan	31°50'10.43"N, 35°33'10.25"E
17	The Place of Jesus' Temptation for 40 days [26 AD]	Matthew 4:1-11	Mount Quarantania, West Bank	31° 52' 26" N, 35° 25' 53" E
18	The Place of John the Baptist's Execution – Machaerus [29 AD]	Matthew 14:1-12	Madaba Region, Jordan	31°34'1.93"N, 35°37'28.17"E
PART 3: MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST IN GALILEE & BEYOND				
19	Cana where Jesus did His first Miracle - Catholic Wedding Church [26 AD]	John 2:1-11	Kafr Khanna, Galilee, Israel	32°44'49.06"N, 35°20'19.45"E
20	Cana where Jesus did His first Miracle - Khirbet Qana [26 AD]	John 2:1-11	Netofa Valley, Galilee, Israel	32°49'19.55"N, 35°18'9.92"E
21	Synagogue in Nazareth Where Jesus Preached [27 AD]	Luke 4:16-27	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32° 42' 12" N, 35° 17' 48" E
22	Mount Precipice in Nazareth where Jesus rejected [27 AD]	Luke 4:28-30	Nazareth, Galilee, Israel	32°41'6.00"N, 35°17'54.55"E
23	The Place of the Call of the First Disciples [27 AD]	Matthew 4:18-22	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°53'12.30"N, 35°35'21.29"E
24	The Galilee 1st Century Fishing Boat {27 AD]	Mark 4:1	Ginosar, Galilee, Israel	32°50'39.49"N, 35°31'30.61"E
25	Place of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes [29 AD]	Matt. 14:13-21	Tabgha, Galilee, Israel	32°52'23.75"N, 35°32'54.84"E
26	Black Basalt 1st Century Synagogue in Capernaum [27 AD]	Mark 1:21-28	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'51.40"N, 35°34'31.46"E
27	Peter and Andrew's home in Capernaum [27 AD]	Matthew 8:5, 14	Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E
28	The Mount of the Beatitudes [27 AD]	Matthew 5-7	Near Capernaum, Galilee, Israel	32°52'55.63"N, 35°33'18.99"E
29	The City of Nain where Jesus raised a man from the dead [27 AD]	Luke 7:11-17	Nein, Galilee, Israel	32°37'60.00"N, 35°21'0.00"E
30	Bethsaida where Blind man healed [27 AD]	Mark 8:22-26	Northeast of Sea of Galilee, Israel	32°54'32.33"N, 35°37'51.52"E
31	The Place of the Deliverance of the Demon Possessed Men [27 AD]	Matthew 8:28-34	Kursi, Galilee, Israel	32°49'22.00"N, 35°39'9.94"E
32	The Mount of Transfiguration – Mount Tabor [27 AD]	Matthew 17:1-9	Mount Tabor, Galilee, Israel	32°41'13.61"N, 35°23'25.38"E
33	Jacob's Well in Samaria [27 AD]	John 4:1-26	Nablus, West Bank	32°12'42.74"N, 35°16'39.71"E
34	Caesarea Philippi where Peter declared Jesus as Messiah [27 AD]	Matt. 16:13-19	Banias, Golan Heights, Israel	33°14'46.32"N, 35°41'38.79"E
35	The Place where Jesus called Zacchaeus [27 AD]	Luke 19:1-10	Jericho, West Bank	31°51'33.01"N, 35°27'25.64"E
36	The Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany [29 AD]	John 11:1-44	Al-Eizariya, West Bank	31°46'11.94"N, 35°15'51.63"E
37	The Pool of Bethesda [29 AD]	John 5:1-9	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'53.04"N, 35°14'8.88"E
38	The Pool of Siloam [29 AD]	John 9:1-5	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'13.18"N, 35°14'7.19"E
39	The Fallen Tower of Siloam [30 AD]	Luke 13:1-9	City of David, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'22.73"N, 35°14'11.00"E
40	Roman Denarius of Tiberius Caesar [30 AD]	Matt. 22:15-22	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
41	Evidence for Herod's Temple – Temple Warning Inscription [30 AD]	Matthew 24:1-2	Istanbul Archeology Museum, Turkey	41°0'39.14"N, 28°58'53.97"E
42	Evidence for Herod's Temple – Floor tiles discovered [19 BC]	Matthew 24:1-2	Temple Mount, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'40.60"N, 35°14'7.44"E
43	Ossuary of James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus [50s AD]	Matt. 13:55-56	Undisclosed location	31°46'7.41"N, 35°14'9.91"E
PART 4: FINAL DAYS OF JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH				
44	Place where Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem [30 AD]	Luke 13:34	Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'40.15"N, 35°14'30.24"E
45	Ossuaries of Simon son of Jonah, Mary , Martha and Sapphira [60s AD]	Luke 10:38-42	Flagellation Monastery, Jerusalem	31°46'49.71"N, 35°14'3.17"E
46	The Gate of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus [30 AD]	Matthew 21:1-11	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'44.13"N, 35°14'14.03"E
47	The Place of the Last Supper and Pentecost [30 AD]	Luke 22:7-13	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'17.74"N, 35°13'44.68"E
48	The Garden of Gethsemane [30 AD]	Matthew 26:36	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'43.93"N, 35°14'23.31"E
49	Where Jesus was held captive at Caiaphas' House	Luke 22:60-62	St. Peter in Gallicantu, Jerusalem	31° 46' 17" N, 35° 13' 55" E
50	Herod's Palace, Jerusalem where Jesus tried [30 AD]	Matt. 27:11-14	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E
51	The Traditional Place of Crucifixion and Resurrection [30 AD]	John 19:41	Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'42.54"N, 35°13'46.55"E
52	Gordon's Calvary or Golgotha [30 AD]	Mark 15:22-24	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'1.22"N, 35°13'52.20"E
53	Place of Crucifixion near Gordon's Calvary [30 AD]	Mark 15:22-24	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E
54	Evidence of Crucifixion – pierced heelbone of crucifixion victim	Mark 15:22-24	Jerusalem, Israel	31°48'11.17"N, 35°13'51.89"E
55	The Garden Tomb [30 AD]	John 19:41-42	North of Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'0.87"N, 35°13'50.48"E
56	The Caiaphas Ossuary [30 AD]	Matthew 26:3-4	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E
57	The Pontius Pilate Inscription [30 AD]	Matthew 27:2,11	Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"E

58	The Shroud of Turin [30 AD]	John 19:40	John the Baptist Cath., Turin, Italy	45°4'23.65"N, 7°41'8.13"E
59	The Sudarium of Oveido [33 AD]	John 20:6-7	Cathedral of San Salvador, Oveido, Spain	43°21'45.3" N, 5°50'35.09"W
60	Ossuary of Alexander, son of Simon of Cyrene [30 AD]	Mark 15:21	South of Silwan, Jerusalem	31°46'5.52"N, 35°13'59.98"E
61	The Nazareth Inscription [30s AD]	Matt. 28:11-15	Now in the Louvre, Paris, France	48°51'37.06"N, 2°20'17.97"E
62	Akeldama – The Place where Judas hanged himself [30 AD]	Matthew 27:3-10	South of Silwan, Jerusalem	31°46'5.80"N, 35°13'59.55"E
63	The Place where Jesus Reinstated Peter [30 AD]	John 21:1-19	Taghba, Galilee, Israel	32°52'18.68"N, 35°33'1.44"E
64	The Place of the Ascension of Jesus Christ [30 AD]	Acts 1:9-12	Al-Tur Village, Jerusalem	31°46'44.04"N, 35°14'42.42"E
PART 5: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES				
65	The Place of the Stoning of St. Stephen, the First Martyr [32 AD]	Acts 7:54-60	Jerusalem, Israel	31°47'4.78"N, 35°13'46.06"E
66	Straight Street in Damascus and House of Ananias [34 AD]	Acts 9:10-12	Damascus, Syria	33°30'41.32"N, 36°19'2.53"E
67	The Bab Kisan (Where Paul was let down in a basket) [37 AD]	Acts 9:23-25	Damascus, Syria	33°30'23.79"N, 36°18'55.92"E
68	The Cave Church at Antioch in Syria [47 AD]	Acts 11:25-26	Antakya, Hatay Province, Turkey	36°12'32.73"N, 36°10'42.02"E
69	The Pillar of St. Paul in Paphos	Acts 13:6-12	Paphos Archaeological Park, Cyprus	34° 45' 20.4" N, 32° 24' 15" E
70	The Sergius Paulus Inscription in Cyprus [47 AD]	Acts 13:6-12	Soli, Cyprus	35° 8'28.66"N, 32°48'44.07"E
71	Synagogue in Pisidian Antioch where Paul Preached [47 AD]	Acts 13:14-52	1 Km NE of Yalvac, Ispala, Turkey	38°18'23.53"N, 31°11'14.57"E
72	Ancient Lystra where Paul was Stoned [48 AD]	Acts 14:8-20	Gokyurt, Konya, Turkey	37°39'52.89"N, 32°12'38.39"E
73	The Place of Lydia's Baptism near Philippi [50 AD]	Acts 16:13-15	On River Zygakti, Kavala, Greece	41° 1'14.39"N, 24°16'34.30"E
74	The Prison at Philippi [50 AD]	Acts 16:16-40	Ancient Philippi (Filipos), Greece	41° 0'48.18"N, 24°17'1.40"E
75	The City of Thessalonica [51 AD]	Acts 17:1-4	Thessaloniki, Greece	40°38'14.03"N, 22°56'45.78"E
76	The City of Berea [51 AD]	Acts 17:10-15	Veria, Greece	40°31'6.90"N, 22°11'59.82"E
77	The Areopagus (Mars Hill) in Athens [51 AD]	Acts 17:19-22	Athens, Greece	37°58'20.31"N, 23°43'24.05"E
78	The Gallio Inscription [51 AD]	Acts 18:12-17	Temple of Apollo, Delphi, Greece	38°28'57.60"N, 22°30'7.63"E
79	The judgement seat (BEMA) in Corinth [51 AD]	Acts 18:12-17	Archaea Korinthos, Greece	37°54'20.53"N, 22°52'45.84"E
80	The Erastus Inscription in Corinth [53 AD]	Romans 16:23	Archaea Korinthos, Greece	37°54'25.59"N, 22°52'38.93"E
81	The Great Theatre of Ephesus and Silver Shrines of Diana [57 AD]	Acts 19:23-29	Selcuk, Izmir, Turkey	37°56'27.76"N, 27°20'32.48"E
82	Caesarea Maritima where Paul imprisoned [58-60 AD]	Acts 19:23-29	Caesarea, Israel	32°30'3.92"N, 34°53'32.32"E
83	The Anchor of Paul's Grain Ship [c. 60 AD]	Acts 27:6-44	Malta Maritime Museum	35°53'16.72"N, 14°31'14.79"E
84	The Mamertine Prison in Rome [c. 62 - 67 AD]	2 Timothy 1:8	Ancient Rome, Italy	41°53'35.69"N, 12°29'4.19"E
PART 6: THE PLACES OF MARTYRDOM OF THE APOSTLES				
85	The Home of Mary in Ephesus [c. 41 AD]	John 19:26	Orman Yolu Park, Turkey	37°54'43.14"N, 27°19'57.65"E
86	The Tomb of the Blessed Mary	John 19:26	Kidron Valley, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46' 48"N, 35°14' 23"E
87	The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Zebedee [c. 44 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Church St. James, Jerusalem, Israel	31°46'27.48"N, 35°13'44.08"E
88	The burial place of the Apostle James in Spain	Acts 12:1-2	Santiago de Compostela, Spain	42°52'50.17"N, 8°32'39.76"W
89	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthew [c.60 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Napata/Jebel Barkal, Sudan	18°32'10.12"N, 31°49'42.74"E
90	The burial place of the Apostle Matthew	Matthew 9:9	Crypt in Salerno Cathedral, Italy	40°40'48.44"N, 14°45'36.62"E
91	The place of the death of the Apostle James son of Alphaeus [c. 62 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Ostrakine (El Flusiat), Egypt	31° 7'3.85"N, 33°25'54.01"E
92	The burial place of the Apostle James son of Alphaeus & Philip	John 12:24	Santi Apostoli Church, Rome, Italy.	41°53'53.18" N,12°28'59.54"E
93	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle St.Simon Peter [c. 64-68 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Clementine Chapel, Vatican City	41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E
94	The burial place of the Apostle St. Simon Peter Possible burial in ossuary of St. Peter Mount of Olives	John 12:24	St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City Flagellation Monastery, Jerusalem	41°54'7.92"N, 12°27'11.88"E 31°46'49.93"N, 35°14'3.72"E
95	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Paul [c. 67 AD]	2 Timothy 4:6-7	3 Fountains Church, Rome, Italy	41°50'5.69"N, 12°29'0.74"E
96	The burial place of the Apostle Paul	John 12:24	St. Paul outside the walls, Rome	41° 51' 31" N, 12° 28' 38" E
97	The place of the martyrdom of St. Mark [c. 68 AD]	Acts 15:36-39	St. Mark's Cathedral, Alexandria	31°11'54.43"N, 29°53'57.50"E
98	The burial place of St. Mark	John 12:24	St. Mark's Basilica, Venice, Italy	45° 26' 4" N, 12° 20' 23" E
99	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle St. Andrew [c. 69 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	Patras, Greece	38°14'32.30"N, 21°43'38.48"E
100	The place of the burial of the Apostle St. Andrew	John 12:24	Patras, Greece	38°14'32.62"N, 21°43'40.33"E
101	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Thomas [c. 72 AD]	John 20:24-29	St. Thomas Mt, Chennai, India	13° 0'18.20"N, 80°11'35.90"E
102	The burial place of the Apostle Thomas	Acts 12:24	Mylapore, Chennai, India	13° 2'0.92"N, 80°16'40.03"E
103	The place of the martyrdom and burial of the Apostle Thaddeus [72 AD]	Mark 3:18	Qareh Kelisa, Iran	39° 5'32.00"N, 44°32'40.00"E
104	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Simon the Zealot [c. 74 AD]	Luke 6:14-16	New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia	43° 5'25.84"N, 40°48'58.68"E
105	The burial place of the Apostle Simon the Zealot	John 12:24	New Athos, Abkhazia, Georgia	43° 5'17.16"N, 40°49'16.31"E
106	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Matthias [c. 80 AD]	Acts 1:15-26	Gonio Fortress, Adjara, Georgia	41°34'23.43"N, 41°34'24.72"E
107	The burial place of the Apostle Matthias	Acts 12:42	St. Matthias Abbey, Trier, Germany	49°44'17.67"N, 6°37'55.20"E
108	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Philip [c. 80 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	2 Km NE of Pammukale, Turkey	37°55'52.76"N, 29° 7'48.45"E
109	The place of the death of St. Luke [c. 84 AD]	Colossians 4:14	Thiva, Greece	38°18'54.30"N, 23°19'24.81"E
110	The burial place of St. Luke	John 12:24	St. Justina Basilica, Padua, Italy	45°23'46.18"N, 11°52'46.68"E
111	The place of the martyrdom of the Apostle Bartholomew [c. 80-100 AD]	Matthew 10:1-4	D. & B. Albayrak Bucagi, Turkey	38° 8'59.92"N, 44°12'46.56"E
PART 7: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST				
112	The Cave of the Rev. of John at Patmos [95 AD]	Rev. 1:9	Skala, Patmos, Greece	37°18'51.51"N, 26°32'38.92"E
113	Revelation: The Church at Ephesus [95 AD]	Rev. 2:1-7	Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey	37°56'19.15"N, 27°20'27.90"E
114	Revelation: The Church at Smyrna [95 AD]	Rev. 2:8-11	İzmir, İzmir Province, Turkey	38°25'7.00"N, 27° 8'21.00"E
115	Revelation: The Church at Pergamum [95 AD]	Rev. 2:12-17	Bergama, Izmir Province, Turkey	39° 7'57.00"N, 27°11'3.00"E
116	Revelation: The Church at Thyatira [95 AD]	Rev. 2:18-29	Akhisar, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°55'12.19"N, 27°50'11.09"E
117	Revelation: The Church at Sardis [95 AD]	Rev. 3:1-6	Sart, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°29'17.78"N, 28° 2'24.70"E
118	Revelation: The Church at Philadelphia [95 AD]	Rev. 3:7-13	Alaşehir, Manisa Province, Turkey	38°20'58.20"N, 28°31'4.74"E
119	Revelation: The Church at Laodicea [95 AD]	Rev. 3:14-22	Eskihisar, Denizli Province, Turkey	37°50'10.57"N, 29° 6'32.49"E
120	The Burial Place of the Apostle John – Died around 100 AD	Matthew 10:1-4	Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey	37°57'11.98"N, 27°22'1.39"E

1. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE HOME OF MARY OF NAZARETH

Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'7.61"N, 35°17'51.63"E

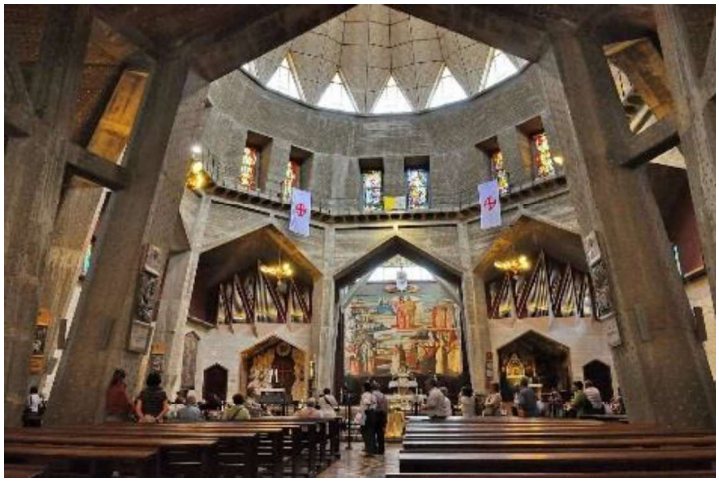
Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:26-27 (KJV 2016)



Nazareth was a small town in the first century made of descendants of returned exiles of the tribe of Judah. What is amazing is that Nazareth is within the boundaries of the tribe of Zebulun. 700 years earlier the prophet Isaiah foretold that the Great Light would come to the land of Zebulun in Isaiah 9:1-2. The Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth was built in 1969 upon the ruins of a 1st century dwelling in Nazareth which is believed to be the home of the Virgin Mary. This home is now called the Grotto of the Annunciation and is believed to be the place where the Angel Gabriel met her and announced to her that she was to be the mother of Jesus Christ. Connected to the Grotto are stairs from a 4th century church which also venerated the site. Above the site are ruins of Byzantine churches which were destroyed, then rebuilt in Crusader times, then destroyed again. Early believers knew this as the place where Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived and grew up. Within the grotto, there is an altar with the following inscription: Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est, which means "Here the Word was made flesh".

Roman Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth

The Grotto of the Annunciation, Basilica of the Annunciation



The Upper Church in the Basilica of the Annunciation

An altar in the Grotto reads "Here the Word was made Flesh"

1
Luke 1:26-38
The Home of Mary
Nazareth, Israel

2. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SPRING THAT FED NAZARETH'S WELL

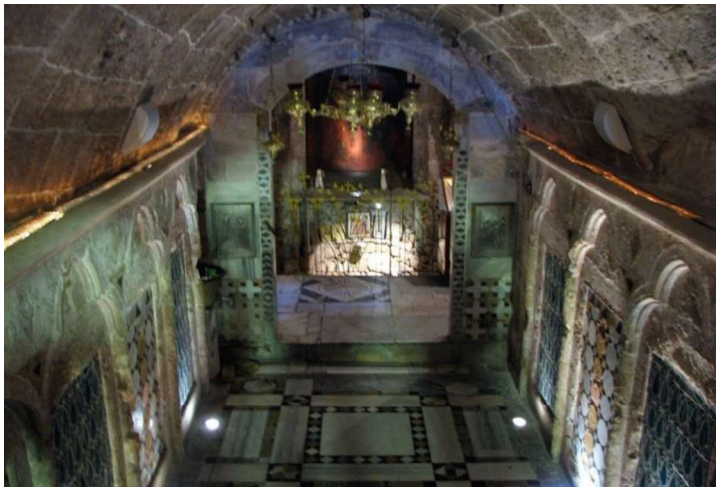
Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'25.40"N, 35°18'5.64"E

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel went in to her presence and said, "Rejoice, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, because, you have found favor with God. Luke 1:26-30 (KJV 2016)

St. Mary's Spring is located inside the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Gabriel, which was built in 1767 in Nazareth. In the 3rd century a church was initially built around the site of Mary's Spring, based on the belief that this was an important Christian site. Although the New Testament does not record the location of the annunciation, the author of the Protoevangelium of James gives details about the annunciation. "And she took the pitcher and went forth to draw water, and behold, a voice said: 'Hail Mary, full of grace, you are blessed among women.'" According to this account, Mary was at the place to draw water, or a spring of water. This church was built in the Orthodox tradition where the Angel Gabriel met Mary and told her she would be the mother of the Son of God. The Catholic tradition, however, maintains that the site of the annunciation was the home of Mary. This natural spring in St. Gabriel's Church is the source of an ancient well around which the town of Nazareth was built. This is called the Fountain of the Virgin or the Well of Mary.

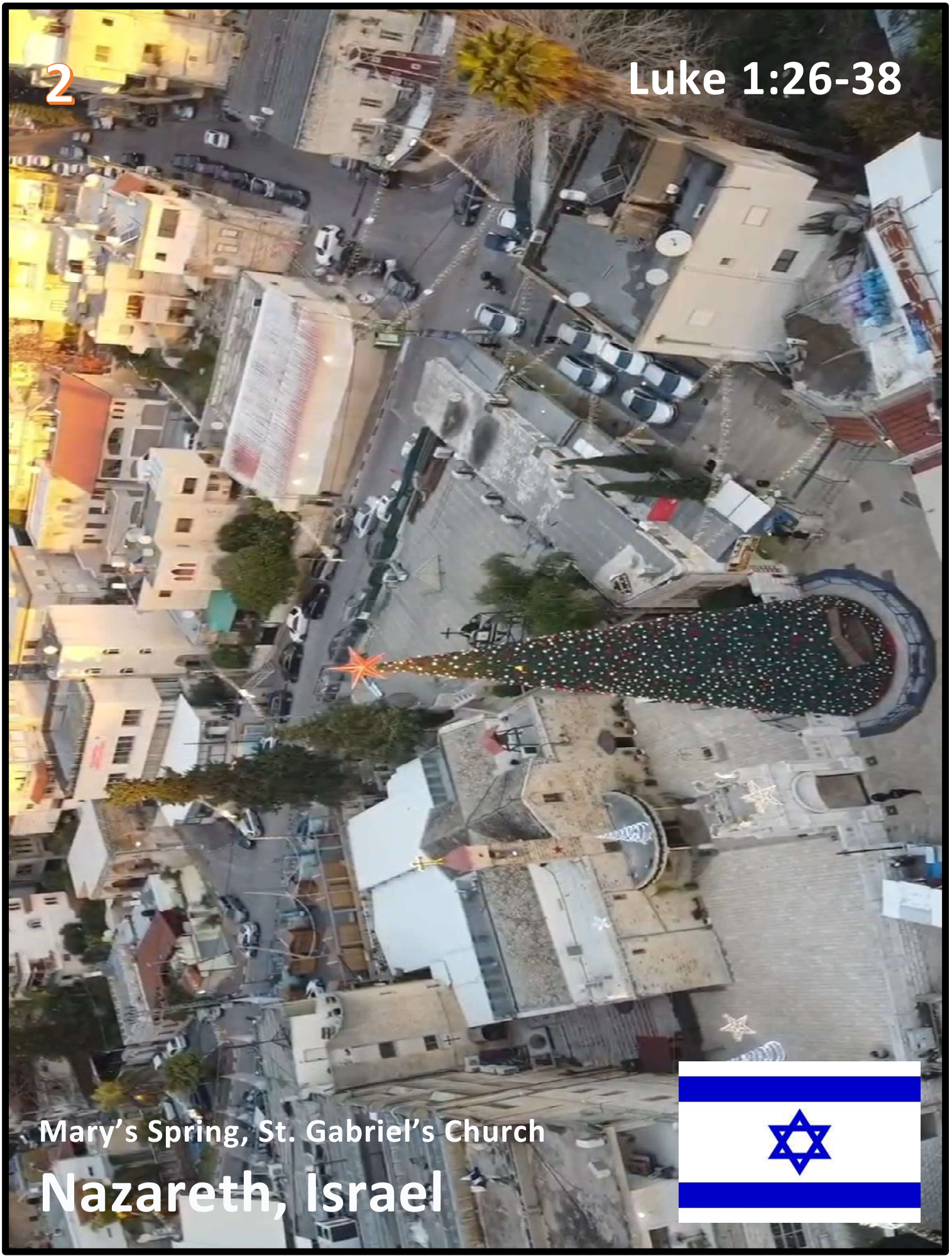
St. Gabriel's Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth

Beautiful paintings within the church from the life of Christ



The Corridor Leading to St. Mary's Spring

St. Mary's Spring in St. Gabriel's church

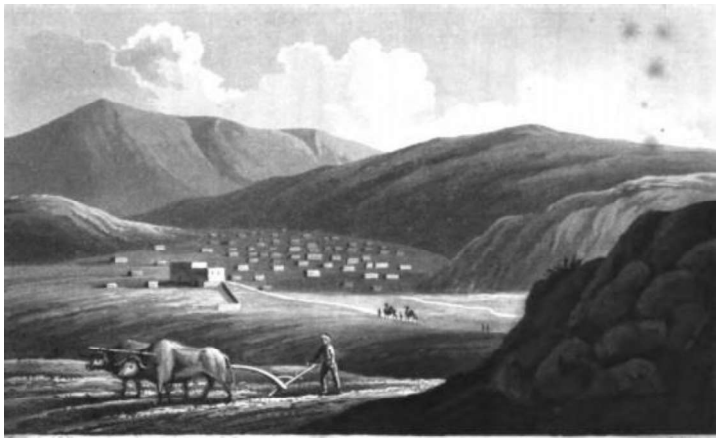

2
Luke 1:26-38
Mary's Spring, St. Gabriel's Church
Nazareth, Israel

3. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE WELL IN NAZARETH THAT MARY VISITED

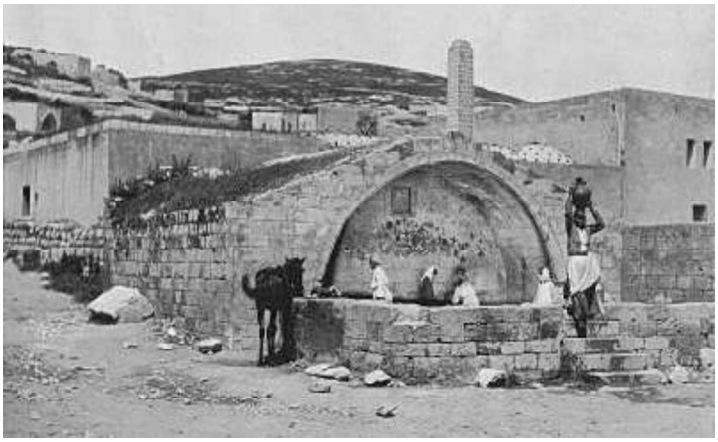
Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'23.92"N, 35°18'5.62"E

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel went in to her presence and said, "Rejoice, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, because, you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and will call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:26-33 (KJV 2016)

In 1824, William Rae Wilson described the "Well of the Virgin" that gave water to the inhabitants of Nazareth which during the time of Jesus would have had a population of around 300. When he visited Nazareth, the population was about 1,500, most of whom were Christians. The house of Mary was there when he visited Nazareth, with the ruins of the Byzantine Monastery of the Annunciation that Empress Helena had built in the 4th century still visible. Women in ancient Israel would come to the well in town once or twice a day. It is likely that Mary came to this well, which is really a trough where water from a spring above (in St. Gabriel's Orthodox Church) would flow down to this well and be collected. The well of Mary structure was built in the 1800s, then demolished in the 1960s and rebuilt, but is no longer functional as of the 1960s.



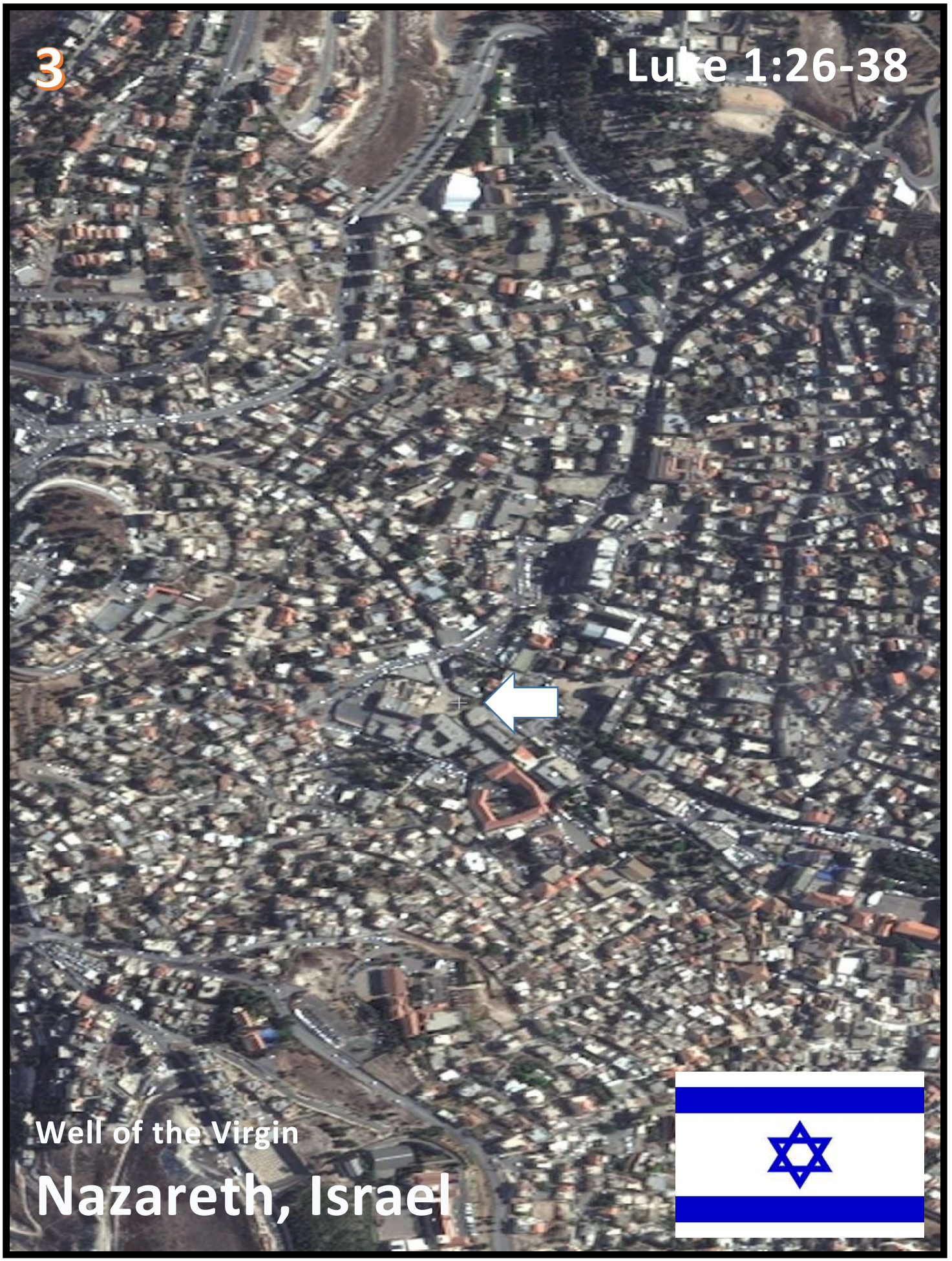
Nazareth as depicted from Wilson's Visit in 1824



Functional Mary's Well, Nazareth, late 1800s

Present-day Mary's well no longer in use

Behind a conduit bringing water from Mary's Spring to Mary's well

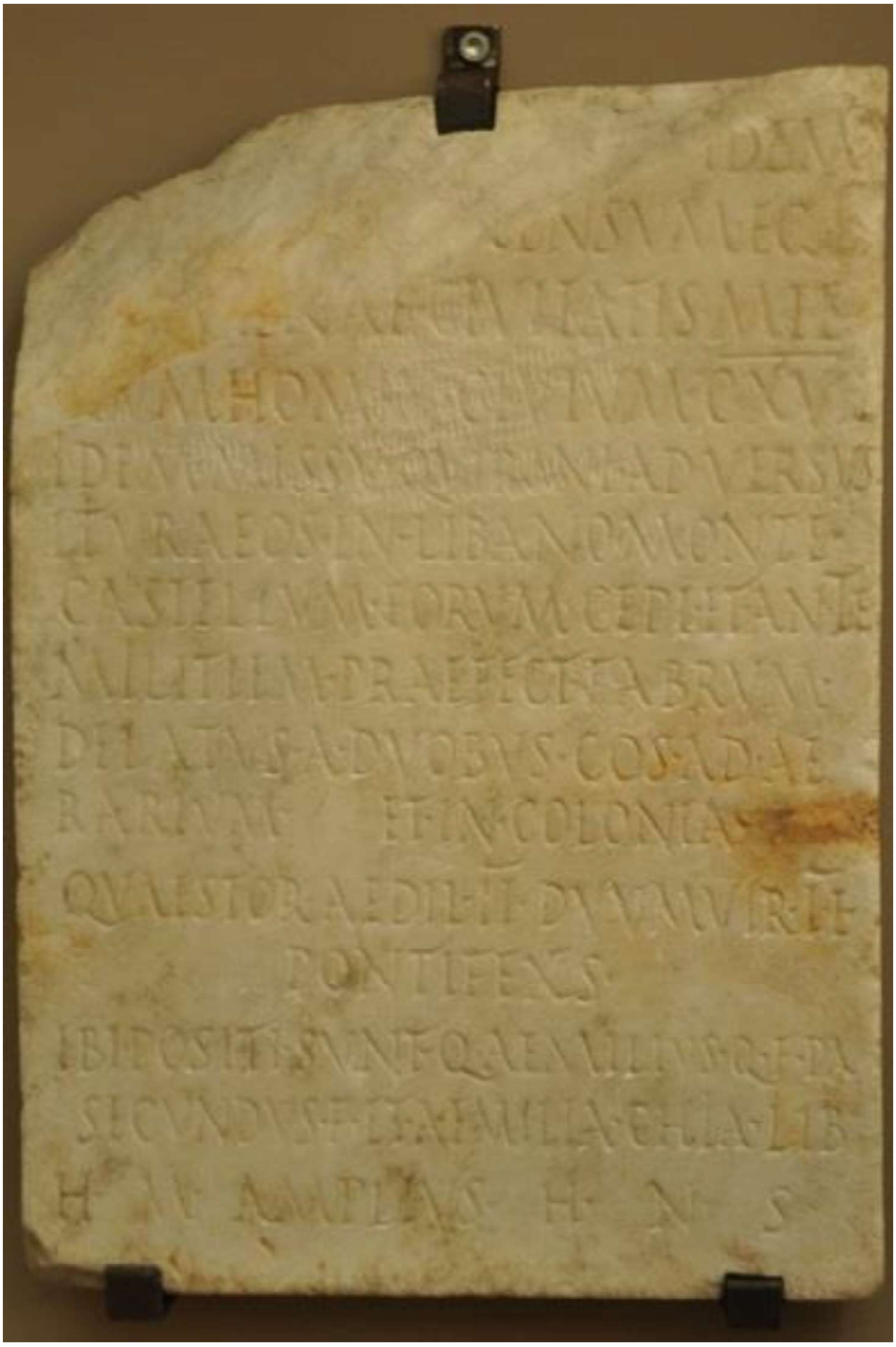

3
Luke 1:26-38
Well of the Virgin
Nazareth, Israel

4. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE CENSUS OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS

National Archaeological Museum, Venice, Italy, Google Earth Coordinates: 45°26'0.83"N, 12°20'16.04"E

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered for taxation. And this tax registrar first occurred when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Luke 2:1-2 (KJV 2016)

In 1764 construction workers found an interesting tombstone while building the St. George Orthodox Church in Beirut, Lebanon. The tombstone belonged to Quintus Aemilius Secundus and is dated to 20 AD. It mentions how Secundus conducted the census by order of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius during the time of Caesar Augustus and found the city of Apamea to have 117,000 citizens. This confirms the account of Luke 2:1-3 that Caesar Augustus ordered a census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. The tombstone is now located at the Museo archeologico nazionale in Venice, Italy.



Tombstone of Quintus Aemilius Secundus Museo archeologico nazionale in Venice, Italy

"Quintus Aemilius Secundus, son of Quintus, of the Palatina tribe, in military service to the divine Augustus under P. Sulpicius Quirinius, legate of Caesar for Syria, decorated with honors, Prefect of the Cohort I Augustus and Prefect of the Cohort II of the Fleet, By order of the same Quirinius I took a census of the city of Apamea, a town of 117,000 citizens. By the same Quirinius I was sent to fight the Itureans in the Libanus Mountains and I captured their citadel…"

Translation of Latin Text

4

Luke 2:1-2

St. George Orthodox Church

Beirut, Lebanon

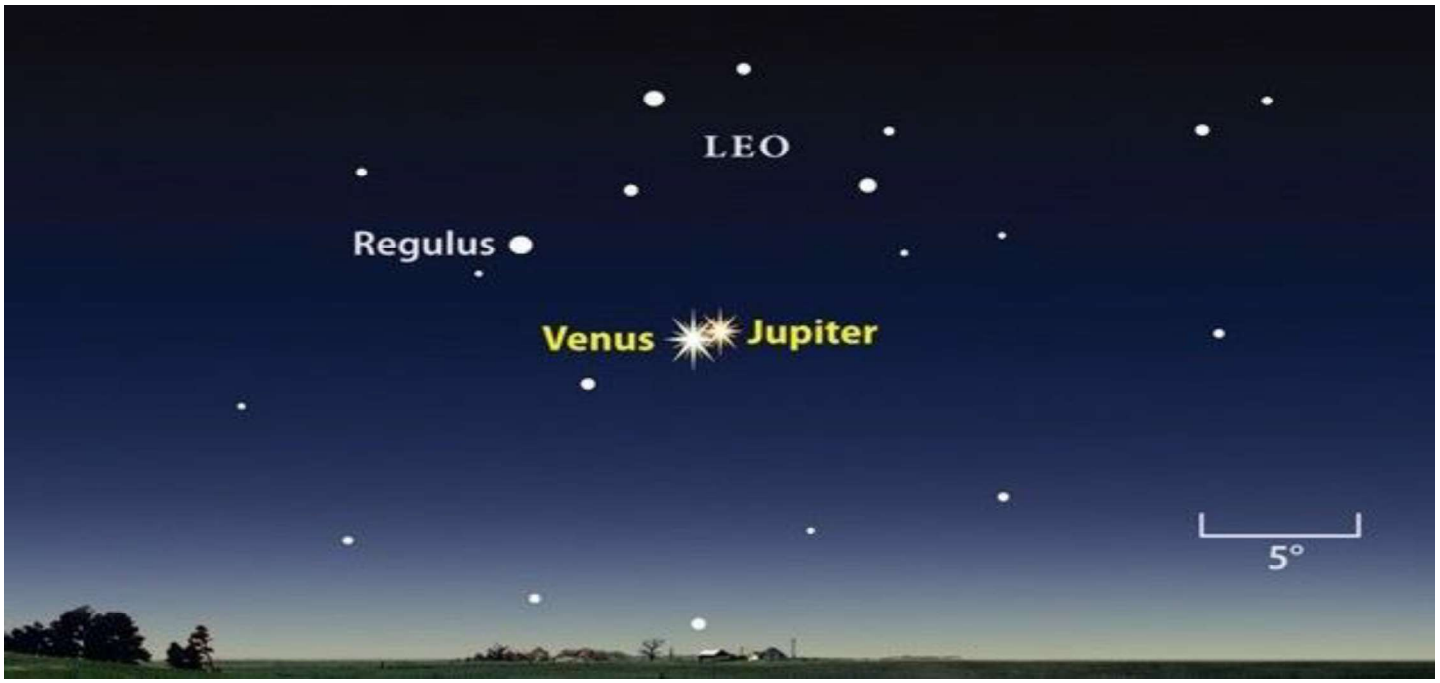
5. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Constellation of Leo, Google Sky Coordinates: 11h 00m 00s, +15° 00' 00

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Since we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him....After they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10 (KJV 2016)

In 2007, Dr. Frederick Larson used Starry Night, software based on Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and proposed the theory that the Star of Bethlehem as recorded in Matthew 2:1-10 was in fact the conjunction of the planets Venus and Jupiter with the star Regulus in the constellation of Leo. The conjunction of the three heavenly bodies occurred in June, 2 BC. The Bible also says that the star "stood over" where the young child was—this could be explained by the fact that Jupiter can seem to stop, as from the perspective of Earth it has retrograde motion.

The Discovery of the "Star" of Bethlehem
Dr. Frederick Larson, Dr. Jur
American Lawyer
Education:
He received a BA in Philosophy, then a doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Southern California Law School in 1978.
Organization/Place of Work
He was a visiting assistant professor at Texas A & M University. Now he is a teacher at Texas A & M University in the Centre for Executive Development.
Bible Evidence:
Matthew 2:1-10
He used the program "Starry Night" to locate the night skies at the time of the conception, birth and visit of the wise men in the birth of Christ.



The Bethlehem "Star" – possibly the Conjunction of Venus, Jupiter and Regulus in the Constellation Leo

5

Matthew 2:1-10

Possible “Star” of Bethlehem

Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus

6. THIS IS HEROD THE GREAT'S JERUSALEM PALACE

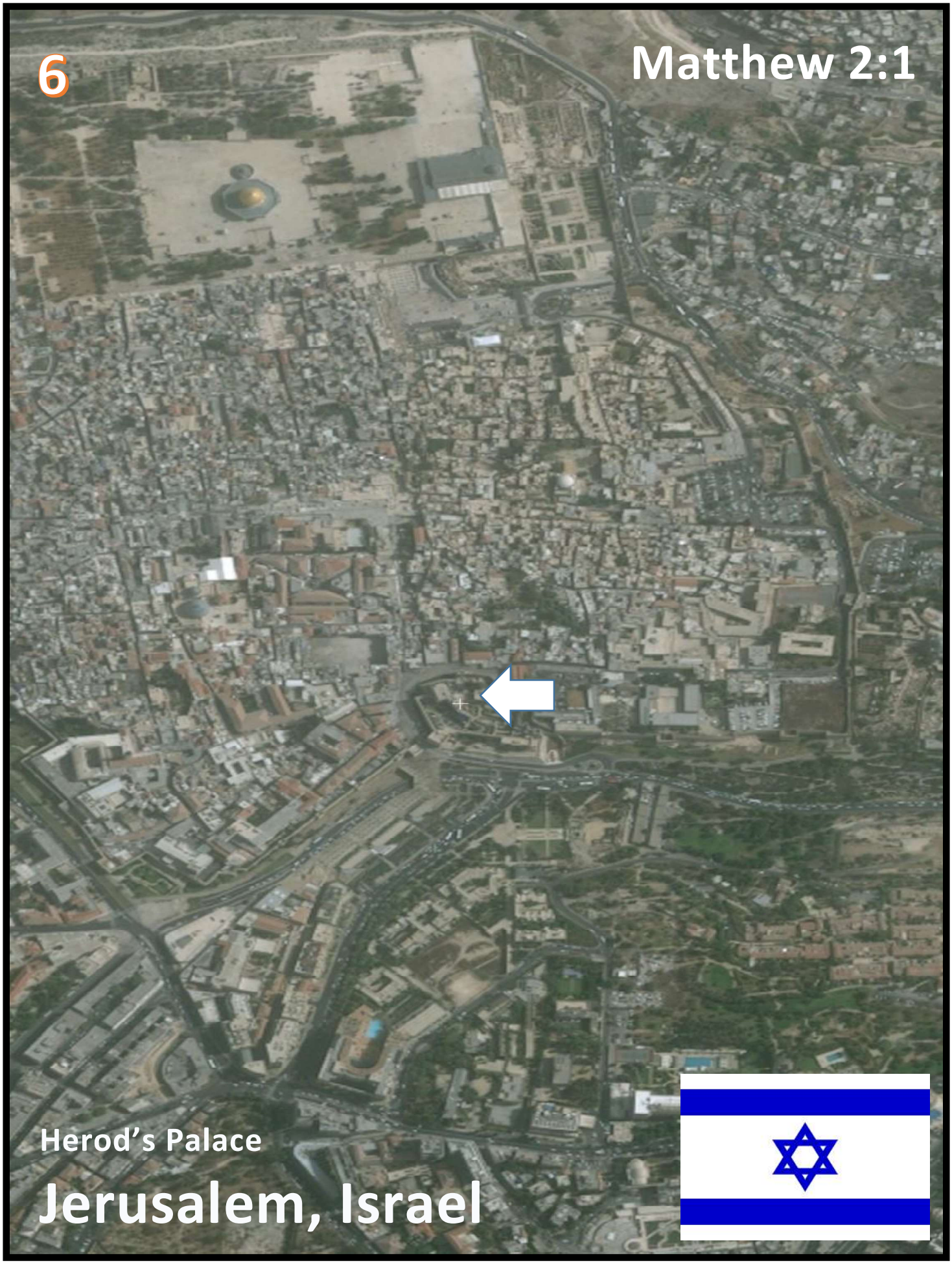
The Kishle, Jerusalem, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'34.20"N, 35°13'41.60"E

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Since we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Matthew 2:1-3. (KJV 2016)

In 1999, Israeli archaeologist Amit Re'em, of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, discovered Herod the Great's palace along the western wall of Jerusalem. This discovery was made while excavations were underway within the former Kishle prison building in Jerusalem. This reinforces the geography of Matthew 2:1, which tells of how the Magi from the East came to see Herod the Great at his palace in Jerusalem.

The Discovery of the Herod's Palace in Jerusalem
Israeli Archaeologist
Bible Evidence:
Matthew 2:19-20
He has worked on many excavations in Israel including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (1999), and being excavation director of the Arab village of Bodrus. (2004-)
Education:
He received a Master's in archaeology in the following: The Graves in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Akeldama Charnel House, as a Case Study for Tombs and Burial Customs in the Crusader Kingdom
Amit Re'em,
M.A. Archaeology
Organization/Place of Work
He works for the Israeli Antiquities Authority.
Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'33.90"N, 35°13'40.93"E

Amit Re'em in the Kishle, Jerusalem


6
Matthew 2:1
Herod's Palace
Jerusalem, Israel

7. THIS IS HEROD'S JUDEAN PALACE

Za'tara, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°39'56.17"N, 35°14'30.20"E

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel, because those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Matthew 2:19-20. (KJV 2016)

In 1972, Israeli archaeologist Dr. Ehud Netzer started excavations on the Herodium, an artificial hill built with slave labour. On top was Herod the Great's elaborate palace. In 2007 Netzer discovered Herod the Great's mausoleum and smashed sarcophagus in a tomb monument located partway up the hill. The reconstructed sarcophagus is now located in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

The Herodium

The Partially Reconstructed Sarcophagus of King Herod

7
Matthew 2:19-20
The Herodium
Za’tara, Palestinian Territories

Herod’s Tomb
Za’tara, Palestinian Territories

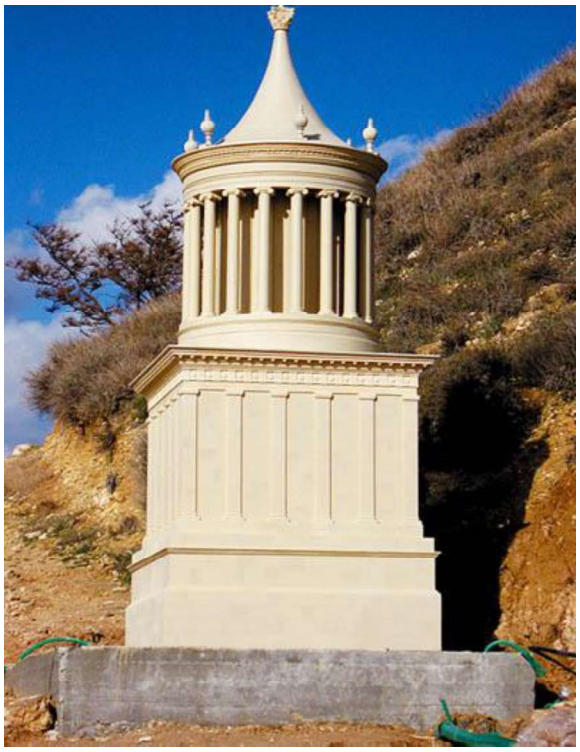
8. THIS IS KING HEROD'S SARCOPHAGUS FOUND WITHIN THE HERODIUM

Israel Museum, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°46'19.39"N, 35°12'14.73"

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel, because those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Matthew 2:19-20. (KJV 2016)

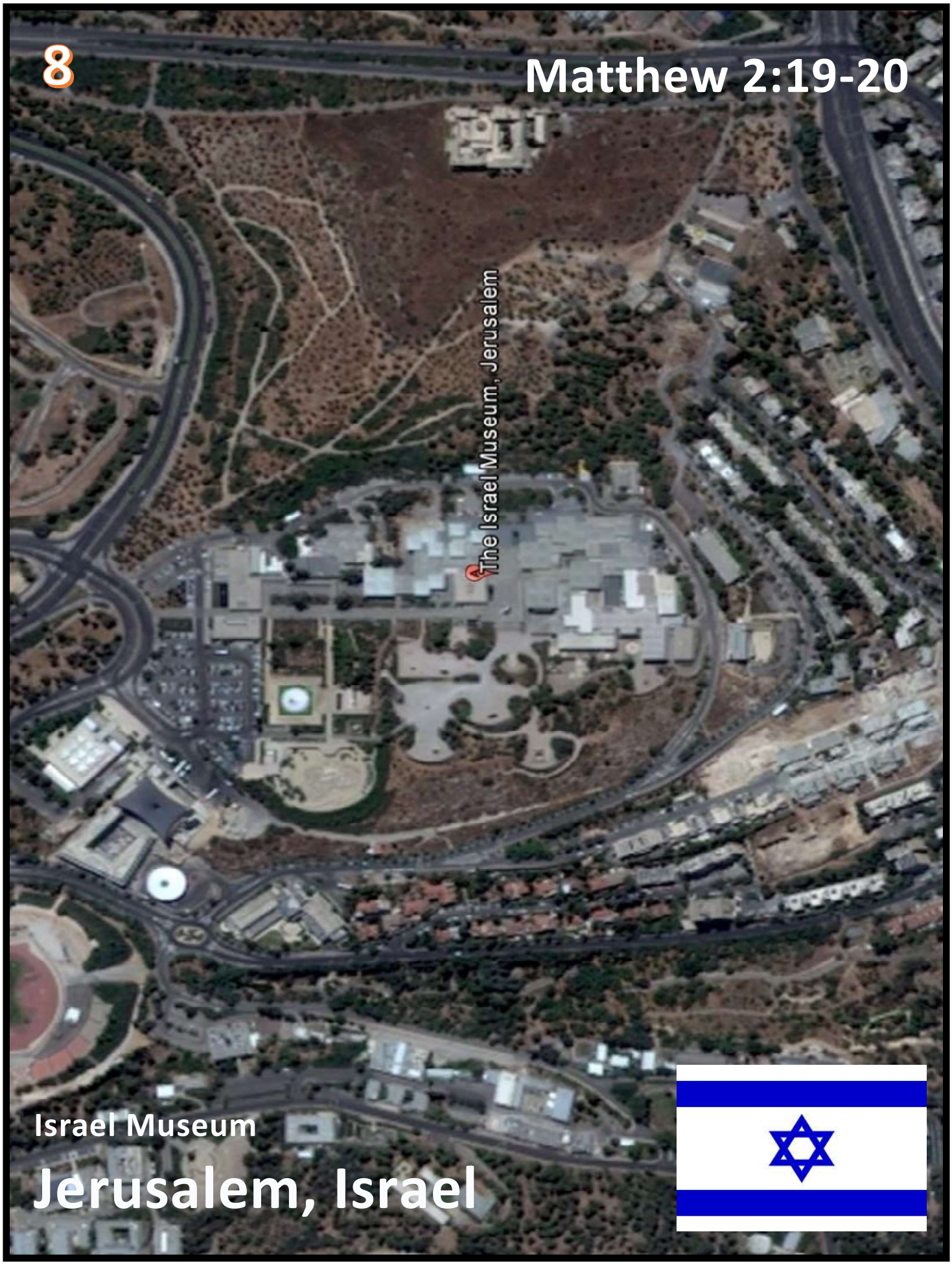
In 2007, after extensive excavations of the Herodium, the tomb and sarcophagus of King Herod was found by Dr. Ehud Netzer halfway up the man-made hill. The sarcophagus was made of well crafted pink limestone. No bones were found in the tomb and it was heavily smashed, most likely by Jewish patriots who resented the Roman appointed Herod and fought against Roman rule in the late 60s AD.

Dr. Netzer posing with the Sarcophagus of Herod



A Model of King Herod's Mausoleum on the Herodium

Herod the Great Exhibit at the Israel Museum


8
Matthew 2:19-20
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Israel Museum
Jerusalem, Israel

9. THIS IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS - THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E

"Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered for taxation with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was pregnant. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7 (KJV 2016)

The Prophet Micah prophesied around 700 BC that the ruler in Israel, who was from everlasting, would come from Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. In 1934, excavations beneath the sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Nativity in Bethlehem were carried out by W. Harvey, E. T. Richmond, H. Vincent, and R. W. Hamilton. Beautiful mosaics from the time of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century were found. Empress Helena ordered this church to be built in 339 AD, and this church is the oldest church in the world that is still in use to this day. This verifies that this location has been considered to be the place of birth of Jesus Christ for nearly 17 centuries. Within the Church of the Holy Nativity is the Grotto of the Nativity. This was a cave which was typical of stables of the first century. Within the grotto is a first century manger and an altar with a silver 14-pointed star that marks the place of the birth of Jesus. The 14 points represent the 14 generations times 3 from Abraham to Jesus in Matthew's gospel. Pilgrims touch the center of the star and feel the rock of the cave in the place of the birth of the Saviour.

Church of Holy Nativity with Door of Humility

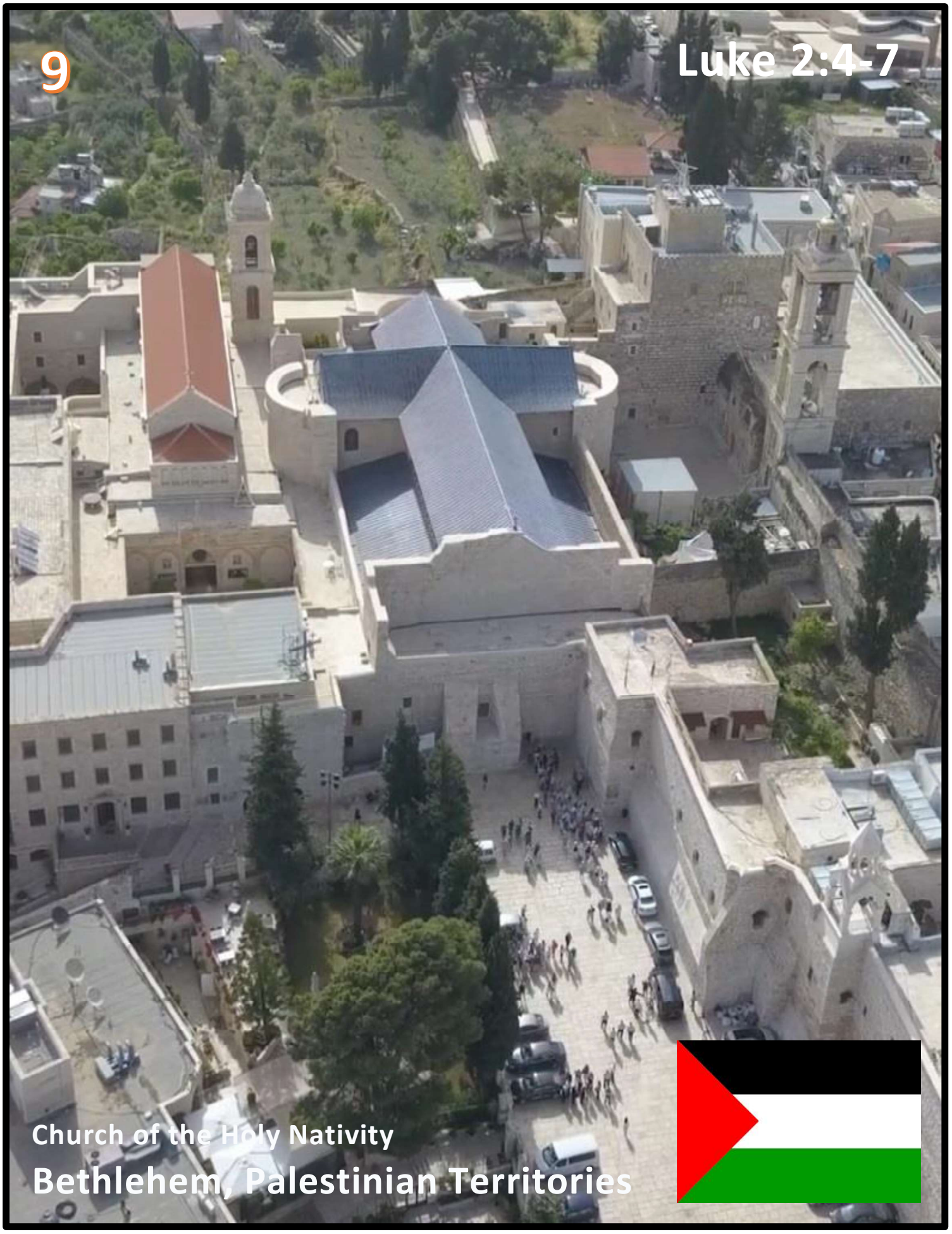
Church of the Holy Nativity

Fourth Century mosaic from original church

The Discovery of St. Helen's Church of Nativity in 1954
Italian Franciscan Archaeologist
Bible Evidence:
Luke 2:4-7
He performed excavations at many sites in Israel including Dominus Flevit, Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem (1961-1964), Nazareth and Mount Carmel. Based on his research he concluded that the church of the nativity is built upon a 4th century church built by Queen Helena.
Education:
He became a priest in 1928 and studied at the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology in Rome where he received a doctorate in Christian Archaeology.
Dr. Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti
1905 - 1990
Organization/Place of Work
From 1935-1978 he worked at "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum" in Jerusalem, teaching Christian archeology, topography of Jerusalem which he directed (68-78).
Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.5" N, 35°12'27.5" E

The Grotto of the Nativity

The Star of the Nativity


9
Luke 2:4-7
Church of the Holy Nativity
Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories

10. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS

Church of the Holy Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.59"N, 35°12'27.21"E

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked because of the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and killed all the children who were in Bethlehem and in all of its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are no more." Matthew 2:16-18 (KJV 2016)

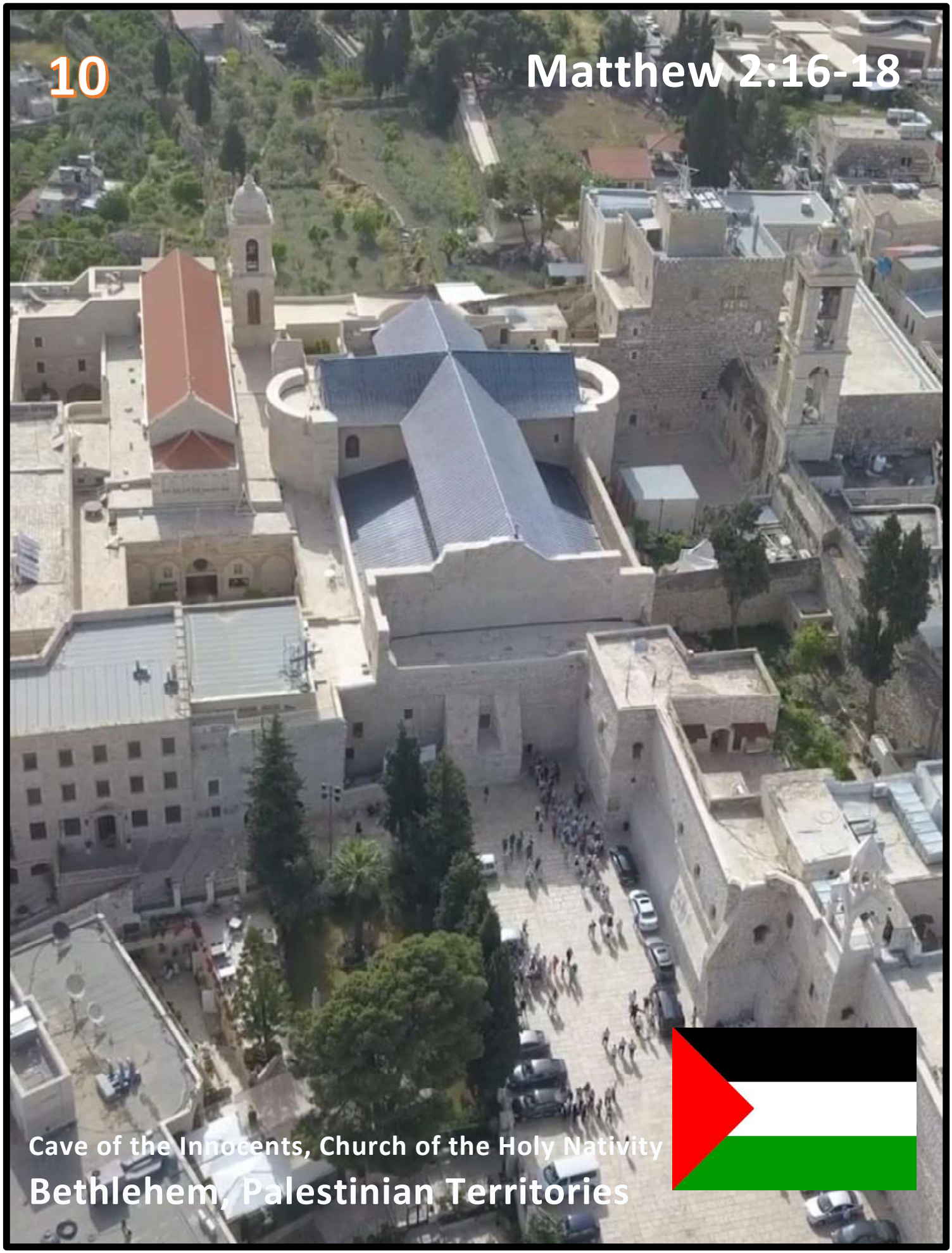
In 1962, excavations beneath the monastery of the Church of the Holy Nativity were conducted by Dr. Bellarmino Bagatti, an Italian Franciscan friar and archaeologist. Within the Grotto of the Innocents are many ancient bones, presumably from the 1st century, of people of various ages who had been exhumed in the days of Constantine and his mother Helena and reburied together in this cave. Here the scripture was fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah in Jeremiah 31:15.

The Cave of the Innocents (beneath the Church of the Nativity)

The Discovery of St. Helen's Church of Nativity in 1954
Dr. Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti
1905 - 1990
Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist
Education:
He became a priest in 1928 and studied at the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology in Rome where he received a doctorate in Christian Archaeology.
Organization/Place of Work
From 1935-1978 he worked at "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum" in Jerusalem, teaching Christian archeology, topography of Jerusalem which he directed (68-78).
Bible Evidence:
Luke 2:4-7
He performed excavations at many sites in Israel including Dominus Flevit, Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem (1961-1964), Nazareth and Mount Carmel. Based on his research he concluded that the church of the nativity is built upon a 4th century church built by Queen Helena.
Google Earth Coordinates: 31°42'15.5" N, 35°12'27.5" E

10

Matthew 2:16-18



Cave of the Innocents, Church of the Holy Nativity

Bethlehem, Palestinian Territories

11. THIS IS EVIDENCE FOR THE CAVE OF THE SHEPHERDS IN BETHLEHEM

Bayt Sahur, West Bank. Google Earth Coordinates: 31°41'36.46"N, 35°13'53.84"E

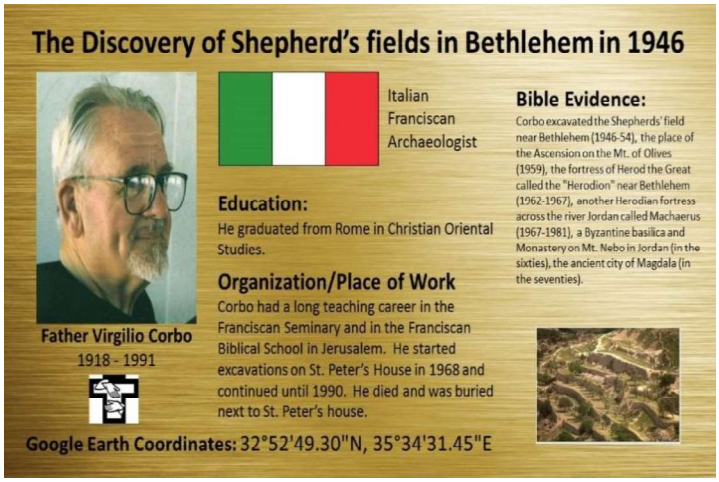
"Now there were in the same country shepherds staying out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, the angel of the Lord came over them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were very afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not fear, because behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. Because, there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12 (KJV 2016)

In 1951, excavations were carried out by Franciscan friar Virgilio Corbo, and traces of human occupation, including ancient oil presses of the 1st century, were found. Tradition from the 4th century names this as the place the angels appeared to the shepherds the night the Lord Jesus was born. The present sanctuary on these grounds was built in 1953.

Caves at YMCA Shepherd's Field

Shepherd's Field Chapel

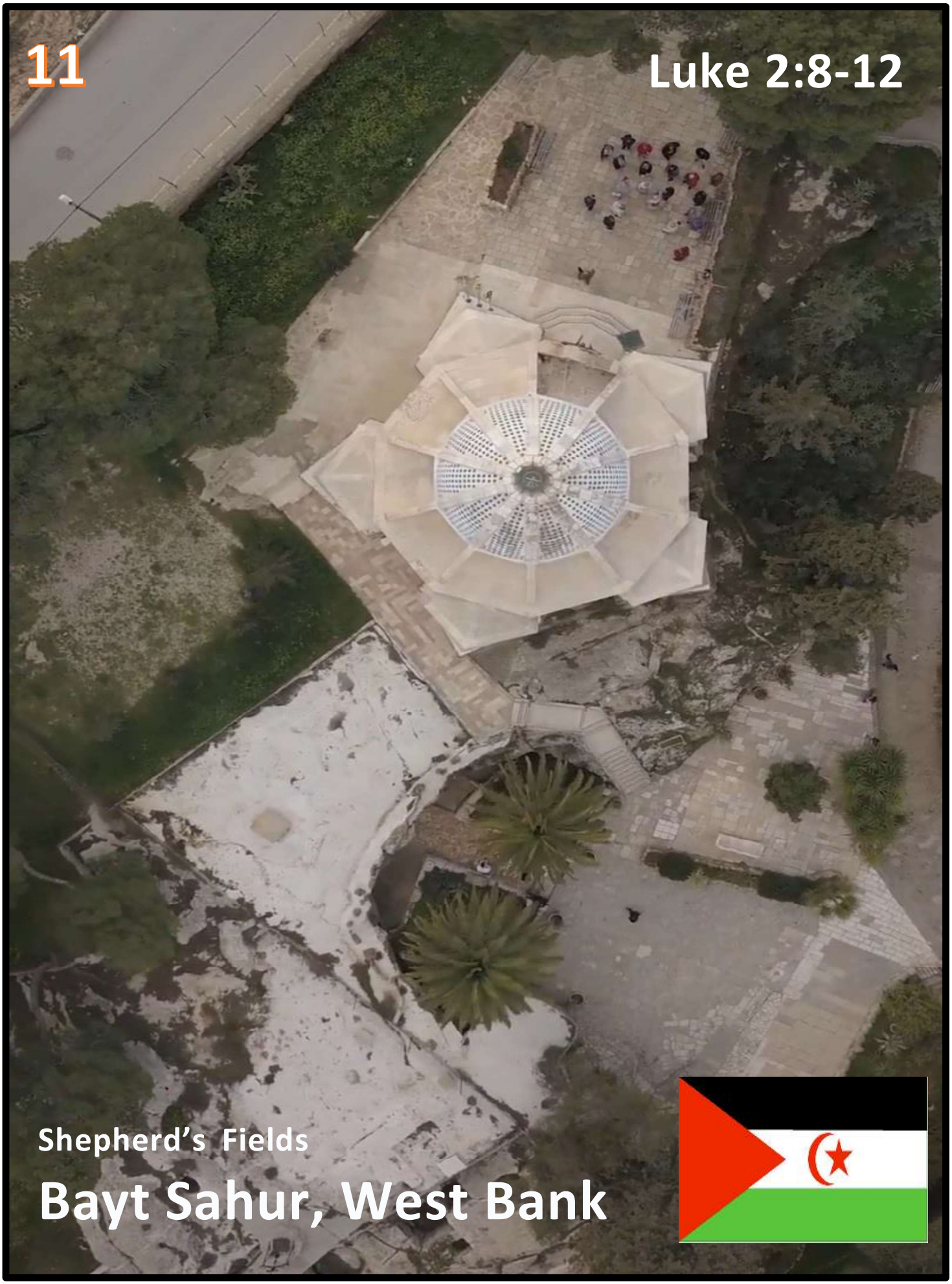
Church at Shepherd's Fields, Bethlehem


The Discovery of Shepherd's fields in Bethlehem in 1946
Father Virgilio Corbo
1918 - 1991
Italian
Franciscan
Archaeologist
Education:
He graduated from Rome in Christian Oriental Studies.
Organization/Place of Work
Corbo had a long teaching career in the Franciscan Seminary and in the Franciscan Biblical School in Jerusalem. He started excavations on St. Peter's House in 1968 and continued until 1990. He died and was buried next to St. Peter's house.
Bible Evidence:
Corbo excavated the Shepherds' field near Bethlehem (1946-54), the place of the Ascension on the Mt. of Olives (1959), the fortress of Herod the Great called the "Herodion" near Bethlehem (1962-1967), another Herodian fortress across the river Jordan called Machaerus (1967-1981), a Byzantine basilica and Monastery on Mt. Nebo in Jordan (in the sixties), the ancient city of Magdala (in the seventies).
Google Earth Coordinates: 32°52'49.30"N, 35°34'31.45"E

Excavations of Byzantine church and Monastery

11

Luke 2:8-12



Shepherd's Fields

Bayt Sahur, West Bank

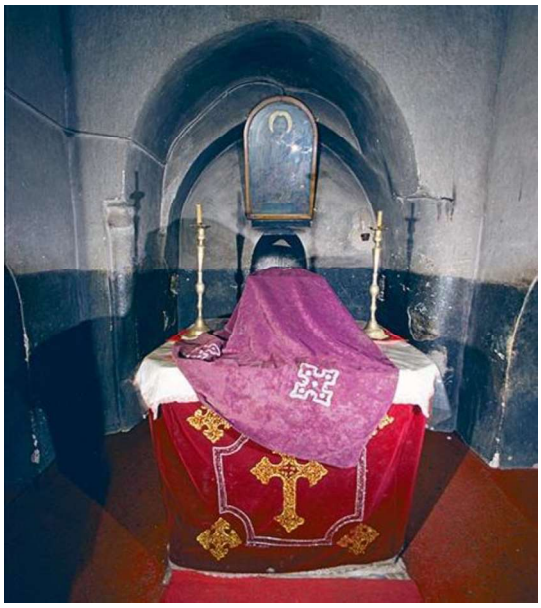
12. EVIDENCE FOR THE BED JESUS USED AS A TODDLER NOW AN ALTAR

Deir el-Muharraq Monastery, El-Qusiya, Egypt. Google Earth Coordinates: 27°26'40"N, 39°49'0"E

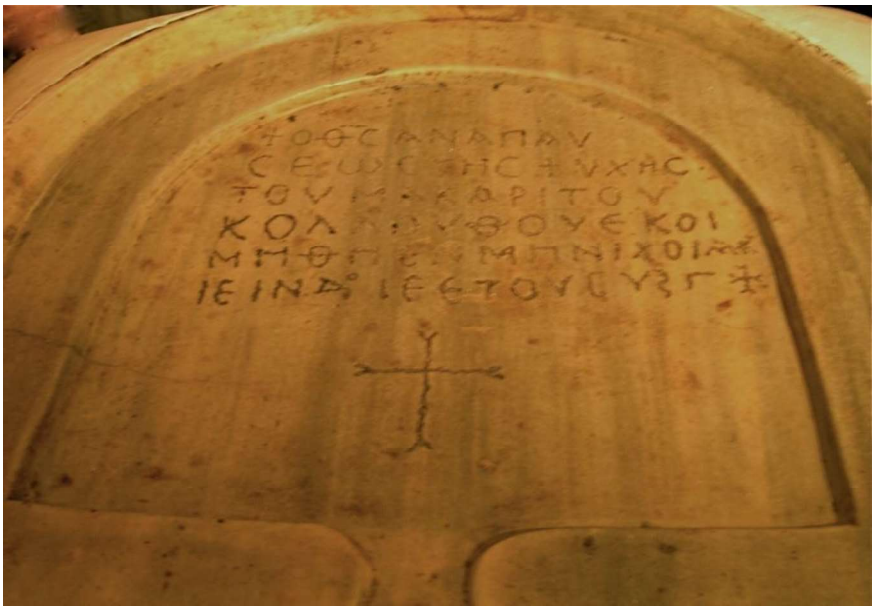
"Now when they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee into Egypt, and wait there until I bring you word; because Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed into Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son." Matthew 2:13-15 (KJV 2016)

According to Egyptian Orthodox tradition, the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) came to Egypt and went from place to place for about 3 years. The al Muharraq monastery is in the middle of Egypt and marks the place where the Holy Family stayed for about 6 months. Within the monastery in Chapel of Mary there is an altar which is made of a semicircular piece of marble with an inscription in Greek dating to 746 AD which reads: ""O, Lord repose the blessed Kulthos". This altar is the oldest Christian altar in the world and the church consecrated by Jesus Christ Himself. Tradition states that in the first century the child Jesus slept on this marble slab as a bed for half a year. This altar is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 19:19: "In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the middle of the land of Egypt". According to tradition it was also here in this place where the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to go back to the land of Israel after King Herod's death.

This is the Monastery where tradition states the Holy Family stayed



This altar is covered and sacred



The Greek 8th Century AD Inscription on the Altar

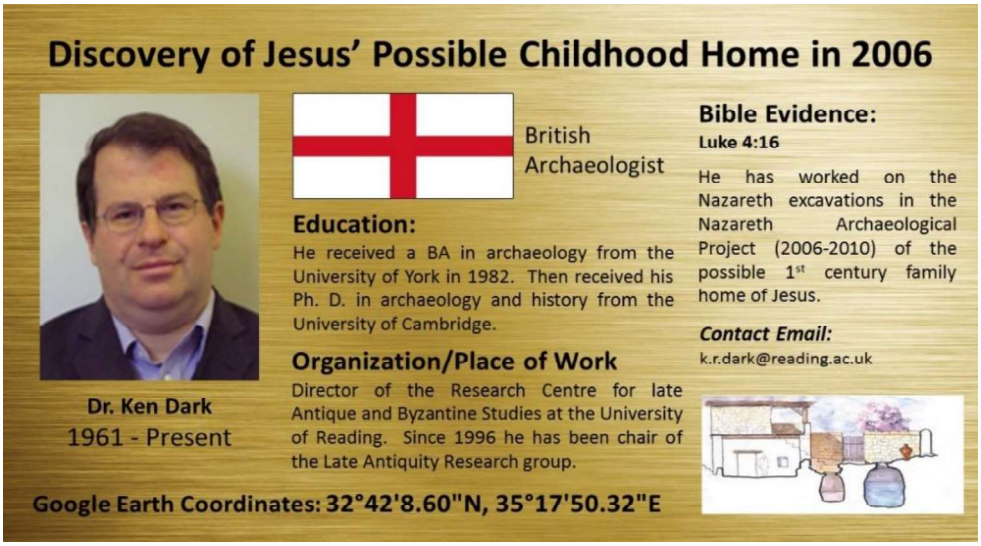
12
Matthew 2:13-15
Bed where Jesus slept
Al Muharraq Monastery
El-Qusiya, Egypt

13. EVIDENCE FOR THE HOME OF JESUS IN NAZARETH

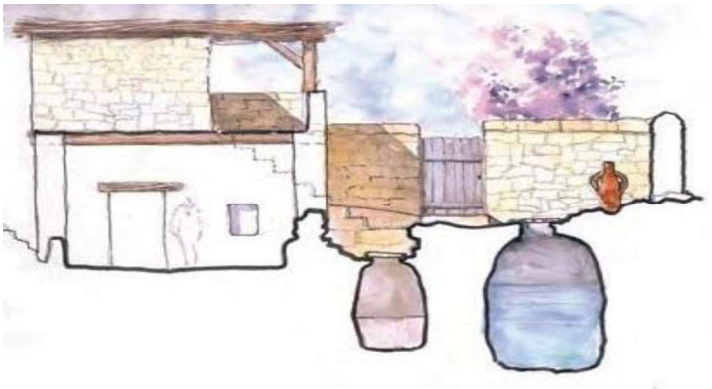
Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Nazareth, Galilee, Israel. Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E

"And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophets, "He will be called a Nazarene." Matthew 2:23 (KJV 2016)

The Holy Family returned from Egypt to Nazareth, the town where Jesus spent most of His earthly life. The word Nazareth comes from the Hebrew word for Branch, netzer. In Isaiah 11, we read that the Messiah would be from the line of Jesse and be known as a Branch, netzer. Then the prophet Zechariah foretold that the man whose name is the BRANCH will grow up out of his place and build the temple of the LORD. The Messiah was known as Jesus of Nazareth. In 2006, Dr. Ken Dark, a British archaeologist from the University of Reading, discovered a 1st century Jewish dwelling in the grounds of the Sisters of Nazareth convent. It was a two-storey house with two cisterns for water. It was occupied during the 1st century, then abandoned and used as a burial place with a rolling stone tomb. Then in Byzantine and Crusader times it was a place of Christian worship with an altar indicating that it was a place of pilgrimage. It was known as the Church of Nutrition, where Jesus Christ was nourished and raised in Nazareth.


Discovery of Jesus' Possible Childhood Home in 2006
Dr. Ken Dark
1961 - Present
British Archaeologist
Education:
He received a BA in archaeology from the University of York in 1982. Then received his Ph. D. in archaeology and history from the University of Cambridge.
Organization/Place of Work
Director of the Research Centre for late Antique and Byzantine Studies at the University of Reading. Since 1996 he has been chair of the Late Antiquity Research group.
Bible Evidence:
Luke 4:16
He has worked on the Nazareth excavations in the Nazareth Archaeological Project (2006-2010) of the possible 1st century family home of Jesus.
Contact Email:
k.r.dark@reading.ac.uk
Google Earth Coordinates: 32°42'8.60"N, 35°17'50.32"E

First Century home in Nazareth – venerated in Byzantine and Crusader times – Possibly the Home of Jesus and His family



Reconstruction of the Home of Jesus

The Archaeological site is now covered and pilgrims can visit the site

13

Matthew 2:23

Possible Home of Jesus
Sisters of Nazareth Convent

Nazareth, Israel